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Wolverhampton Information, Advice and Support Service

Personal Budgets and Personal Health Budgets

What is a Personal Budget?

A Personal Budget for special educational needs (SEN) is an amount of money identified to pay for support specified in section F (Special Educational Provision) of an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) for a child or young person with special educational needs. It is usually funded by the local authority's education service.

A Personal Budget can also be used for identified social care needs and will be provided by the local authority's social care service. These needs would be identified through a social care assessment.

Who can have a Personal Budget?

Parents of a child with an EHCP, or a young person with an EHCP, can request a Personal Budget during the Education, Health and Care needs assessment process. Inform the SEND Officer, who is responsible for drafting the EHCP, that you would like a personal budget for some / all of the special educational provision.

You do not need to have an EHCP to get Personal Budgets for social and health care, but once you have an EHCP, or one is being prepared, you can request budgets for all three areas of support. You must have an EHCP to get a Personal Budget for special educational provision.

Examples of a Personal Budget may include:

- Equipment, tools, aids, and technology that is not provided by the NHS, and their ongoing maintenance
- Extra support to access activities
- Specialist teaching
- Complimentary therapies

A Personal Budget must be for provision set out in the EHCP to meet the special educational needs of the child or young person and towards the outcomes in the EHCP. The Personal Budget needs to be agreed by the local authority and, where appropriate, the Headteacher of the school/setting named in the EHCP. Funding for a Personal Budget is not additional to the high needs funding given to the school or setting.

Personal Health Budget

A Personal Health Budget is an amount of money identified to support a child or young person's identified health and wellbeing needs. The child or young person may also have an EHCP. At the centre of the Personal Health Budget is a care and support plan. This sets out the agreed health and wellbeing outcomes that the individual wants to achieve, and how the budget will be spent to help them.

The Personal Health Budget is a tool to support personalised care and is funded by the Integrated Care Board and may be part of meeting a child/young person's individual needs. Personal Health Budgets are usually for those with complex health needs.

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Who can have a Personal Health Budget?

If a child/young person is under 18 and in receipt of continuing care, or over 18 and is eligible for Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding, they can access a Personal Health Budget. This enables them to manage and control how they receive their care and support.

Young people under 25 who do not have continuing care or CHC funding but have an EHCP can also access a Personal Health Budget.

Those who are under 25 with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) can also access a Personal Health Budget if there is a gap in the services they are receiving, because their needs are outside of what can be commissioned by the Integrated Care Board.

The amount in someone's personal health budget is based upon their personalised care and support plan. This plan helps people to identify their health and wellbeing outcomes, together with their local NHS team, and sets out how the budget will be spent to enable them to reach their goals and keep them healthy and safe.

More information on NHS Continuing Healthcare can be found on the Wolverhampton Local Offer website.

Examples of how a Personal Health Budget can be used include:

- Employing carers or personal assistants (PAs) to support children & young people receiving a Personal Health Budget.
- Paying for activities that help children & young people access in the community.
- Equipment – such as wheelchairs and mobility aids.

If someone receives a personal health budget and a personal budget for social care, then it may be possible to join the two budgets together to form a joint or pooled budget.

A Personal Health Budget can be spent on any care or services that are set out in the care and support plan that has been put together and agreed with the NHS Team.

Managing a Personal Budget/Personal Health Budget

There are three ways a parent/carer or young person can manage a PB/PHB:

Notional budget: No money changes hands. A budget is determined and the local authority or NHS team and/or setting will look after the Personal Budget/Personal Health Budget. They will then arrange the agreed care and support.

Third party budget: An organisation legally independent of the local authority or the NHS (for example, an independent user trust or a voluntary organisation) will look after the money and pay for the care and support agreed.

Direct payment: The budget is transferred directly to the parent/carer or young person to buy and manage the care and support agreed.

The care and support package should be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the child or young person's needs.

Please contact us if you require further information, advice or support.

Telephone: **01902 556945**

Email: **ias.service@wolverhampton.gov.uk**

Complete our contact form at: **<https://wolvesias.org/contact-us/index.html>**

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